from the working scientists for going into all pending cases as also future cases ; and

(d) whether Government also propose to give opportunity of personal appearance to the victim and those responsible for taking a decision before such a Committee in order to stop brain drain ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) The retired Naval officer, referred to in the Question, seems to be Shri B.K. Subbarao, retired Naval officer. On the basis of the investigations made by the Police authorities of the Government of Maharashtra, Shri Subbarao was prosecuted under Official Secrets Act, 1923 and Atomic Energy Act, 1962 for suspected espionage activities etc. The matter relating to his alleged harassment has been taken up with the Government of Maharashtra.

(b) to (d) If any specific case is brought to the notice of the Government, the matter can be looked into.

Pakistani-Akali Nexus

3587. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in a section of Press containing a statement reportedly been made by the Home Minister himself to the effect that there is 'Pakistani Akali' Nexus ; and

(b) what follow up Government have taken to ban political parties which are considered anti-national ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) and (b) Facts are being ascertained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Dowry Victims

3588. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under the caption "System apathetic to dowry vicitms" which appeared in the 'Indian Express', New Delhi dated the 7th February, 1992 ;

(b) whether Government are aware of the cumbersome legal system, which takes years together, to establish the crime, which has become a common occurrence ;

(c) whether there is any rise in the incidence of dowry deaths and the slow legal system and police apathy and connivance helps the criminals to escape the punishment ; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to give more teeth to the existing dowry-related Laws ; establish Special Courts to try dowry crimes on day-to-day hearing basis and set down a time-limit in which the trial Court should give its verdict apart from arousing public conscience against the evils of dowry system and most horrifying killing of innocent women ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government are aware of the delay and difficulties involved in bringing the offenders to justice.